

PATENT  
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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants: Kenji HYODO et al.  
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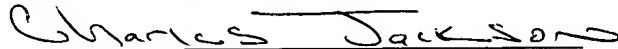
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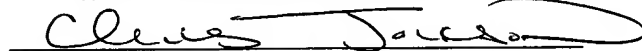
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**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

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Sir:

Before the issuance of the first Office Action, please amend the above-identified  
application as follows: